

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 03599 011214Z

44

ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2948

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3599

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, IS

SUBJ: VISIT OF SECRETARY SIMON

REF: STATE 141463

1. I OF COURSE WELCOME PROPOSED VISIT OF SECRETARY SIMON AND AM SURE ISRAELIS WILL BE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE HIM. I DO, HOWEVER, HAVE RESERVATIONS ON TIMING OF VISIT AND FIND IT DIFFICULT TO FORWARD DETAILED "EMBASSY VIEWS ON SUBSTANCE APPROPRIATE FOR TALKS" UNTIL I HAVE A READING ON THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED PERES TALKS AS WELL AS ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN TEL AVIV 3590. BEST WE CAN DO IS PARA 3 BELOW.

2. AS FOR TIMING, I AM CONCERNED THAT SIMON MIGHT BE IN ISRAEL AT THE SAME TIME FORMIN ALLON IS IN WASHINGTON. THIS COULD LEAD TO A CONFUSION IN SIGNALS WHICH WE WISH TO AVOID AT ALL COSTS. THE SAME PROBLEM COULD ARISE IF ALLON VISIT TO WASHINGTON WERE EARLIER THAN SIMON VISIT TO ISRAEL AND TIMING MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR SIMON AND THIS POST TO BE INFORMED FULLY OF THOSE ELEMENTS OF THE ALLON CONVERSATION WHICH WOULD HAVE RELEVANCE FOR SIMON'S DISCUSSIONS HERE. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, BELIEVE WE SHOULD ENSURE ALLON VISITS WASHINGTON AFTER SIMON COMES HERE.

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 03599 011214Z

3. RE ITEMS FOR ACTION IN JOINT STATEMENT, GOI IS, OF COURSE, MOST INTERESTED IN MAGNITUDE AND TERMS OF EXPANDED MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID. ALSO HIGH ON LIST OF GOI PRIORITIES IS ASSURED ACCESS TO PETROLEUM AND OTHER ESSENTIAL RAW MATERIALS. THESE SUBJECTS WILL BE HIGH ON AGENDA FOR SIMON VISIT HERE. AS YOU ARE AWARE, ISRAELI EXPECTATIONS RE AID APPEAR UNREALISTICALLY HIGH. SIMON VISIT, IF HANDLED PROPERLY, COULD HELP BRING ISRAELIS BACK TO EARTH RE AID. GIVEN SIMON'S EXPERIENCE IN PETROLEUM FIELD, ISRAELIS MIGHT EXPECT SOMETHING CONCRETE ON ASSURANCES RE OIL SUPPLIES.

4. I BELIEVE SENIOR DEPT OFFICIAL SHOULD ACCOMPANY SIMON. IDEALLY, IT SHOULD BE YOU. IF THIS NOT POSSIBLE, I SUGGEST HAL SAUNDERS.

5. I SHOULD NOTE THAT I PLAN TO BE ON MY LONG-DELAYED HONEYMOON OUT OF ISRAEL FROM JULY 6 - 20. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MORE USEFUL IF SIMON'S VISIT COULD BE DELAYED UNTIL MY RETURN. THE MOST IMPORTANT TIMING PROBLEM, HOWEVER, IS THAT WHICH I HAVE REFERRED TO IN PARA 2. ABOVE.

6. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO REARRANGE SCHEDULE FOR SECRETARY TO GO FROM EGYPT TO SAUDI ARABIA AND THEN TO ISRAEL ARRIVING HERE ON SATURDAY, JULY 20? I WOULD PLAN TO GIVE A DINNER THAT NIGHT, INVITING RABIN, ALLON, PERES, RABINOWITZ AND ANY OTHER SUGGESTED GUESTS. THE NEXT DAY WOULD BE DEVOTED TO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS, WITH DEPARTURE PLANNED ON 22ND.

7. I AM RELUCTANT TO APPROACH THE GOI ON EXACT TIMING OF THE SIMON VISIT UNTIL I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR RESPONSE TO THIS TELEGRAM AND TEL AVIV 3590 WHICH I WOULD APPRECIATE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
KEATING

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